



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Milo Smith

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE MILO SMITH
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What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h59@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h59, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid, common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers.

The budget is a bipartisan compromise, receiving support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Sound fiscal principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It should maintain at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Daniels, along with Senate and House Republicans, outlined the above standards early in the process and we did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, and raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding for each student. In addition, the “education trigger” allots 50 percent of state revenue to education when state income exceeds our revenue projections.

Statewide education will receive what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
 - The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
 - The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
 - The state’s higher education scholarship grants program will receive increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.
- Based on the current economic conditions, I believe this is the right budget for Indiana; that’s why I voted for it.



Gov. Mitch Daniels signs Rep. Smith’s flood plain disclosure bill into law.



Rep. Smith speaking during session.

Flood Plain Disclosure

Property owners are now required to disclose if a rental property is located in a 100 year flood plain. This lack of information resulted in the unnecessary loss of property during the flood in 2008. I authored this legislation so that renters can make an informed decision when renting property and decide whether or not to buy flood insurance.

Voter ID

This law, which I authored, will help voters get in and out of the polls quicker on Election Day by allowing any precinct election officer to verify voter identification. The current law allowed only 3 of the 5 precinct election officers to verify voter ID.

Property Tax Mortgage Deductions

I co-authored this legislation, so a taxpayer will never forget to file for a mortgage deduction. When buying a home, the closing agent will process a form when recording the deed that will serve as the application for the mortgage deduction. This makes the deduction process automatic for the taxpayer.

Dropout Prevention Fund

I co-authored this legislation that provides money for school corporation programs that identifies

students who are at risk of dropping out of school, and provides appropriate interventions for those students. The programs will include a number of options for students including mentoring, teaching, tutoring, afterschool opportunities, active learning and professional development. These programs will help keep kids in school and hold them to high expectations.

Qualified Immunity for Teachers

I co-authored a bill that grants teachers qualified immunity for reasonable acts of discipline. This legislation removes a worry that prevents teachers from disciplining misbehaving students, allowing them to maintain a healthy environment for learning. It also adds possession of child pornography to the list of felonies for which a teacher may lose his or her license.

Veterans’ Benefits

I co-sponsored a bill that expanded educational benefits for Purple Heart recipients to include more veterans. This extends the remission of fees program to include all Purple Heart recipients regardless of their enlistment date.

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